GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3885
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
RAILWAY LINE ALONG INDIAN BORDER
Kaushal Shri Raghuvir Singh

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of Rajasthan being a border State with Pakistan there is a need to lay a broad gauge railway line along the bordering areas of the State;

(b) if so, whether Ministry of Defence has made a request in this regard to the Railways through a charter of demands memorandum or in any other form;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto;

(d) whether there is a parallel rail line in Pakistan along its borders with India;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the attention of the Ministry of Railways has been drawn towards the need of development of Indian Railway network in view of availability of Pakistani's railway network along the border; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (g): A statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3885 FOR ANSWER ON 21.4.2008

The existing rail network provides the requisite infrastructure to meet the requirements of Defence. Therefore, currently there is no requirement of additional railway lines in the bordering area of Rajasthan. A broad gauge railway line exists from Samdri-Jodhpur-Merta City-Bikaner-Bathinda- Jalandhar with adequate feeders towards Munabao, Jaisalmer, Kolayat, Anupgarh, Ganganagar, Fazilka and Firozpur. In addition gauge conversion works on Bikaner-Merta road, Jodhpur-Jaisalmer, Jodhpur -Luni-Marwar and Luni-Barmer-Munabao sections have already been completed. Further gauge conversion work on Rewari-Sadulpur, Sadulpur-Bikaner, Ajmer-Nasirabad, Chittorgarh-Mawli-Marwar and Bandikui-Bharatpur-Agra is also under progress as per the request made by Ministry of Defence.

2. Details of Railway lines in Pakistan along the Rajasthan Border are as under:-

(a) Amrukha-Bahawalnagar-Bahawalpur-Rahimyarkhan-Sukkur-Nawabshah-Karachi

(b) Bahawalnagar-Fort Abbas (in state of disuse).

(c) Nawahshah-Mirpuarkas-Naukot.

(d) Mirpuarkas-Khokhropar.

3. Since the existing rail network in Rajasthan, as of now, provides the requisite infrastructure to meet the requirements of defence, additional requirement for development of railway lines are being reviewed regularly and will be taken up as and when required.